(i) grant of outright exemption from payment of custom duties, local duties etc. on Aviation Turbine Fuel and other items uplifted by aircraft of one Contracting Country from the territory of the other Contracting Country.

Or

(ii) grant of most favoured nation treatment in these matters to the airlines of the Contracting Countries.

Sales tax is a state subject. There is no provision to reimburse under-recoveries of sales tax from the oil pool account. Necessary corrective measures in this direction are taken by the Government through inter-Ministerial consultations and consultations with the State Governments from time to time.

Employment Terms of Contract Employees of EIL

*376. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from the Engineers India Limited (EIL) Contract Employees association for review of employment terms and conditions in respect of the contract employees; and

(b) if so, the broad demands of the Association and reaction of Government to their individual demands?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) Main demands of the Association are:

(i) Reinstatement of contract employees whose contractual appointments have been terminated.

(ii) Absorption of contract employees in the regular service of the Company.

Separate civil suits were filed in the High Court of Gujarat by individual contract employees of EIL challenging their non-continuation in the service of the Company on expiry of period of their

contractual appointment. These civil suits have been disposed of by the High Court in favour of the Company.

The association has also filed a writ petition in the High Court of Gujarat for regularisation of service of contract employees. The petition is pending before the Court. Further action in this regard will be taken by the Company in accordance with the final orders of the Court, and rules and regulations of the Company.

Agricultural Farming in Kutch

*377. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Israel has developed an agro-technology to develop farming in desert;

(b) if so, whether any plan has been worked by Government to have agricultural farming in deserts of Kutch (Gujarat) and Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of crops and quantity likely to be produced; and

(e) whether any experiment is going on and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Department of Land Resources is implementing a demonstration-project on Jojoba Plantation and Research in collaboration with "Association of the Rajasthan Jojoba Plantation and Research Project" (AJORP) through technical assistance from Israel. On behalf of the Government of Gujarat, the Agro Industries Corporation Ltd., Ahmedabad have also made an agreement with an Israeli firm for transferring Israeli technology in Gujarat.

(c) The major components of the project being implemented in Rajasthan are:—

(i) Plantation of Jojoba including drip system,

(ii) Nursery raising for gap filling,